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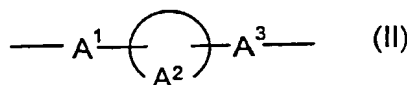
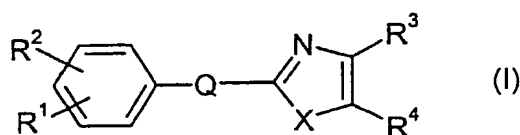
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(54) Title: USE OF PROSTANOID EP<sub>4</sub> RECEPTOR ANTAGONISTS FOR THE TREATMENT OF HEADACHE AND ASSAYS FOR SUCH ANTAGONISTS



(57) Abstract: The present invention provides for the treatment of primary headache disorders, particularly migraine, using antagonists of the EP<sub>4</sub> receptor for prostaglandin E<sub>2</sub>. Particular EP<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonists include azole compounds of formula (I) wherein R<sup>1</sup> is a group such as a lower alkyl substituted with carboxy; R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen or lower alkyl, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are aryl optionally substituted with halogen, Q is formula (II) in which -A<sup>1</sup>- is a single bond or lower alkylene, Formula (III) is a cyclo group, -A<sup>3</sup>- is a single bond or lower alkylene, and X is O, NH or S; or a salt or its solvate thereof.

METHODS FOR THE TREATMENT OF PRIMARY HEADACHE DISORDERS USING  
PROSTANOID EP4 RECEPTOR ANTAGONISTS, AND ASSAYS FOR AGENTS FOR  
SUCH TREATMENT.

Field of the invention.

The present invention relates to a method of treatment of primary headache disorders and drug-induced headaches in humans and other mammals and to the use of compounds in the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of primary  
5 headache disorders and drug-induced headaches.

Background to the invention.

There is a widely held view that the pain of migraine headache originates from abnormally distended blood vessels in the cerebral vasculature. Dilatation in cerebral blood vessels,  
0 would cause local pressure resulting in the activation of local sensory pathways and pain. This can be the case also for the other aforementioned primary headache disorders and certain drug-induced headaches.

15 Many drugs are used to treat primary headache disorders such as migraine, including NSAIDs, ergot alkaloids, and several compounds that interact with different subtypes of 5-hydroxytryptamine (5-HT) receptors either as agonists (e.g. sumatriptan) or antagonists (e.g. ketanserin). However, of  
20 the drugs that interact with 5-HT receptors only the class of compounds described as 5-HT<sub>1B</sub> receptor agonists, of which sumatriptan is an example, will relieve an established headache. 5-HT<sub>1B</sub> receptor agonists are well known to cause vasoconstriction in the cerebral vasculature which supports  
25 the vasodilatation theory [Humphrey, P.P.A., Feniuk, W., Motevalian, M., Parsons A.A. and Whalley, E.T., 'The vasoconstrictor action of sumatriptan on human dura mater in

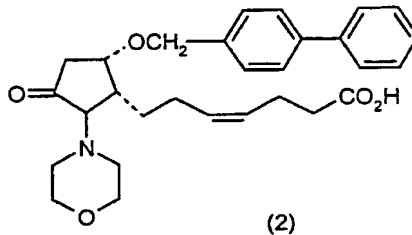
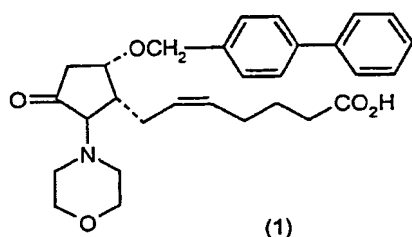
'Serotonin: Molecular Biology, Receptors and Functional Effects' ed. Fozard, J. and Saxena, P.R., Birkhauser Verlag, Basel, 1991].

Exogenous administration of the potent vasodilator E-series, but not I-series, prostanoids to migraineurs is known to induce migraine-like symptoms [Carlson, L.A., Ekelund, L.G. and Oro, L. (1986) *Acta Med. Scand.* 183, 423; Peatfield, R. (1981) *Headache* 32, 98-100]. In menstrual migraines plasma concentrations of prostaglandin E2 (PGE<sub>2</sub>) are significantly increased during the pain phase of the migraine attack (Nattero, G, et al, 1989, *Headache* 29; 232-237). Similarly, increased levels of PGE<sub>2</sub> have been found in saliva of common migraine patients during migraine attacks (Obach Tuca, J, et al, 1989, *Headache*, 29; 498-501).

This evidence, together with the effectiveness of NSAIDS (which act by inhibiting the biosynthesis of prostanoids) in both preventing or relieving a migraine attack [Karachalios, G.N., Fotiadou, A., Chrisikos, N., Karabetsos, A. and Kehagoiglou (1992) *Headache* 21, 190; Hansen, P. (1994) *Pharmacol. Toxicol.* 75, Suppl.2, 81-82] supports the involvement of prostanoids in the aetiology of the disease. The precise role of prostanoids is unclear but could involve a combination of local vasodilator, inflammatory, and/or hyperalgesic actions. The prostanoid most often associated with such actions is PGE<sub>2</sub>.

Thromboxane A<sub>2</sub> (TXA<sub>2</sub>), an active metabolite of arachidonic acid in human platelets, is a potent constrictor of vascular smooth muscle and aggregator of platelets. The compounds AH22191 and AH23848 (see below) and related compounds antagonise the actions of TXA<sub>2</sub> and therefore inhibit platelet aggregation and

bronchoconstriction. Hence these compounds have been claimed for use in the treatment of asthma and as anti-thrombotic agents in cardiovascular disorders. GB Patent 2,028,805 and US Patent 4,342,756 describe AH22921 and AH23848, respectively. These compounds have the following structures:



Additionally, both AH22921 and AH23848 have also been shown to be weak antagonists of PGE<sub>2</sub>-induced relaxation of piglet saphenous vein (pA<sub>2</sub> values 5.3 and 5.4, respectively) through blockade of EP<sub>4</sub> receptors [Coleman, R.A., Grix, S.P., Head, S.A., Louttit, J.B., Mallett, A. and Sheldrick, R.L.G. (1994) Prostaglandins 47, 151-168; Coleman, R.A., Mallett, A. and Sheldrick, R.L.G. (1995) Advances in Prostaglandin, Thromboxane and Leukotriene Research, 23, 241-246] but have no effect on other EP receptor subtypes EP<sub>1</sub>, EP<sub>2</sub> and EP<sub>3</sub>.

A large number of PGE<sub>2</sub> antagonists are known. These include oxazole derivatives, such as those disclosed in WO98/55468, dibenzoxazepine derivatives such as those of EP-A-0512399, EP-A-0512400, EP-A-0539977, WO93/09104, WO93/13082, WO94/25456 and WO95/12600, 1,2-diarylcyclopentenyl compounds such as those of US-A-5,344,991, and carboxylic acids and acylsulphonamides such as those of WO99/47497.

#### Disclosure of the invention.

We have examined the action of a number of prostanoids on

human isolated cerebral blood vessels and made the unexpected discovery that PGE<sub>2</sub> has a complex action on these vessels whereas the other vasodilator prostanoids, PGD<sub>2</sub> and PGF<sub>2α</sub>, produce no effects. PGE<sub>2</sub> can cause constriction of larger vessels (>than 1mm diameter), but more significantly we believe, in the context of pain associated with migraine, it has surprisingly been found that it causes a potent concentration-related relaxation of smaller cerebral vessels (<1mm diameter). By studying a variety of pharmacologically active agents this relaxant effect was found to be mediated by prostanoid EP<sub>4</sub> receptors. Further experiments carried out in human coronary and pulmonary arteries have shown that PGE<sub>2</sub> lacks this dilatory effect in these tissues. Therefore, and in contrast with current anti-migraine drug treatments, it is not expected that EP<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonists will cause significant cardiovascular problems.

Thus our findings described herein are consistent with the novel theory that relaxation of small cerebral arteries by PGE<sub>2</sub> is mediated via EP<sub>4</sub> receptors. Thus EP<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonists, particularly selective EP<sub>4</sub> antagonists, are useful in preventing the relaxation of such arteries.

We therefore believe this unexpected action of PGE<sub>2</sub> could account for the pain in migraine. Preventing increased blood flow to these small cerebral arteries has positive implications in the treatment of migraine and drug induced headaches. Thus an EP<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonist, particularly a selective EP<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonist, may provide a novel and effective anti-migraine agent with advantages over existing therapies, especially NSAIDS. As well as less side effect liability, an EP<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonist should exhibit greater efficacy than an NSAID because an NSAID would eliminate both

the detrimental vasodilator and beneficial vasoconstrictor effects on cerebral vasculature caused by endogenous prostaglandins. In contrast, an EP<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonist should only inhibit the detrimental vasodilator effect.

5 Thus in a first aspect, the invention relates to a new medical use for compounds which act as antagonists at prostanoid EP<sub>4</sub> receptors and pharmaceutical compositions containing them. In particular, the invention relates to the use of such EP<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonists in a method of treatment of primary  
10 headache disorders such as migraine, which method comprises administering an effective amount of an EP<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonist or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt and/or solvate thereof.

There is also provided, according to a further aspect, the use of an EP<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonist in the preparation of a  
15 medicament for use in the treatment of primary headache disorders or drug-induced headaches.

The surprising finding that EP<sub>4</sub> receptor-mediated dilatation of cerebral blood vessels is a major pathway in the induction of primary headache disorders provides novel assay methods for  
20 the identification and validation of therapeutic agents.

Accordingly, the present invention provides an assay method for an agent for the treatment of a primary headache disorder or drug-induced headache, which assay comprises:

- (a) providing an EP<sub>4</sub> receptor;
- 25 (b) bringing a potential agent for said treatment into contact with said receptor;
- (c) determining whether said agent is capable of interacting with said EP<sub>4</sub> receptor; and
- (d) selecting an agent which so interacts as an agent for the

treatment of primary headache disorder or drug-induced headache.

Description of the Drawings.

Figure 1 shows concentration-related relaxation of pre-  
5 contracted cerebral blood vessels by  $\text{PGE}_2$ .

Figure 2 shows concentration-related relaxation by  $\text{PGE}_2$  of cerebral blood vessels pre-contracted by (A) U46619; and (B) and (C), 5-HT.

Figure 3 shows the effect of prostanoids  $\text{PGD}_2$  and  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$  on  
10 smaller diameter cerebral blood vessels.

Figure 4 shows the relaxant response of cerebral blood vessels to iloprost and cicaprost.

Figure 5 shows the effect of EP2 receptor antagonists on the relaxant response of cerebral blood vessels.

15 Figure 6 shows the role of  $\text{EP}_4$  receptors in  $\text{PGE}_2$ -mediated relaxation of cerebral arteries in the presence of a receptor antagonist.

Figure 7 shows the effect of  $\text{PGE}_2$  on pre-contracted preparations of pulmonary (Fig. 7A) or coronary (Fig. 7B)  
20 artery.

Detailed description of the invention.

*Disorders to be treated.*

As used herein, the term "primary headache disorder" includes migraine, tension-type headache, cluster headache, analgesic  
25 rebound headache, chronic paroxysmal hemicrania and headache

associated with vascular disorders.

In a preferred aspect, the invention relates to the treatment of, and assays for agents for treating, migraine. Migraine attacks are classified as migraine with- or migraine without aura. Although diagnostic criteria are somewhat different the (drug) treatment is the same. Migraine without aura is described as: idiopathic, recurring headache disorder, manifesting in attacks lasting 4-72 hours, in which headaches are typically unilateral, throbbing, of moderate to severe intensity, aggravated by routine physical activity, and accompanied by nausea and intolerance to brightness and noise. Migraine with aura is described as: idiopathic, recurring disorder manifesting with attacks of neurological symptoms unequivocally localisable to cerebral cortex or brain stem, usually developing over 5-20 minutes and lasting less than 60 minutes, and followed or accompanied by migraine headache and its associated features.

Drug-induced headache, particularly ergotamine-induced headache, is a common problem in migraine treatment. Some case reports suggest that even the new serotonergic antimigraine drugs such as sumatriptan can lead to overuse and subsequent drug-induced headache.

*"EP<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonist".*

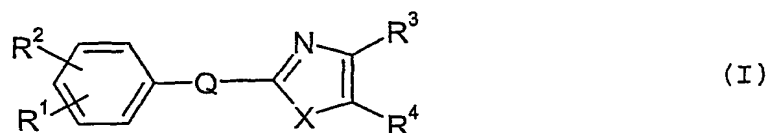
For the avoidance of doubt, in the context of this invention, an EP<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonist is any compound, agent or mixture showing antagonist activity at EP<sub>4</sub> receptors, including and especially antagonist activity against PGE<sub>2</sub> induced relaxation of human isolated cerebral blood vessels.

In any of the above aspects of the invention the EP<sub>4</sub> receptor

antagonist is a chemical entity that blocks the activity of PGE<sub>2</sub> at the (human) EP<sub>4</sub> receptor or better, any chemical entity that competes with PGE<sub>2</sub>, or any other EP<sub>4</sub> receptor ligand, for the EP<sub>4</sub> receptor binding site (preferably in a competitive manner) and does not exert any activity itself at the EP<sub>4</sub> receptor.

In one aspect the invention provides for the use of AH22921(1) or AH23848(2) or pharmaceutically acceptable salts and/or solvates thereof for the manufacture of a medicament for the use in the treatment of primary headache disorders or drug induced headaches.

In another aspect, the invention provides the use for the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of primary headache disorders or drug induced headaches, of an oxazole compound of formula (I):



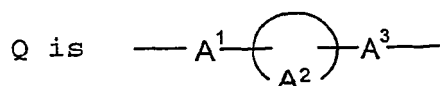
(I)

wherein R<sup>1</sup> is lower alkyl substituted with hydroxy, protected carboxy or carboxy; carboxy; protected carboxy; carbamoyl; a heterocyclic group; cyano; hydroxy; halo(lower)alkyl-sulfonyloxy; lower alkoxy optionally substituted with hydroxy or carbamoyl; aryl substituted with carboxy, protected carboxy, carbamoyl or a heterocyclic group; or amino optionally substituted with protected carboxy or lower alkylsulfonyl,

R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen or lower alkyl,

R<sup>3</sup> is aryl optionally substituted with halogen,

R<sup>4</sup> is aryl optionally substituted with halogen,



in which  $\text{---A}^1\text{---}$  is a single bond or lower alkylene,



is cyclo ( $\text{C}_5\text{--C}_9$ ) alkane, bicyclo ( $\text{C}_6\text{--C}_9$ ) alkane or bicycle ( $\text{C}_5\text{--C}_9$ ) alkane and  $\text{---A}^3\text{---}$  is a single bond or lower alkylene, and  
 5 X is O, NH or S;  
 or a salt or its solvate thereof.

The compounds of formula (I) may contain one or more  
 asymmetric centres and thus they can exist as enantiomers or  
 10 diastereoisomers. Furthermore certain compounds of formula  
 (I) which contain alkenyl groups may exist as cis- or trans-  
 isomers. In each instance, mixtures and separate individual  
 isomers may be prepared.

The compounds of the formula (I) may also exist in tautomeric  
 15 forms and the invention includes both mixtures and separate  
 individual tautomers.

The compound of the formula (I) and its salt can be in a form  
 of a solvate, which is included within the scope of the  
 present invention. The solvate preferably include a hydrate  
 20 and an ethanolate.

The term "lower" is intended to mean 1 to 6 carbon atom(s),  
 unless otherwise indicated.

Suitable "lower alkyl" and lower alkyl moiety in the term

"halo(lower)alkylsulfonyl" and "lower alkylsulfonyl" may include straight or branched one having 1 to 6 carbon atom(s), such as methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, sec-butyl, t-butyl, pentyl, t-pentyl, hexyl or the like, preferably one having 1 to 4 carbon atom(s).

Suitable "lower alkylene" may include straight or branched one having 1 to 6 carbon atom(s), such as methylene, ethylene, trimethylene, tetramethylene, pentamethylene and hexamethylene, preferably one having 1 to 3 carbon atoms(s), more preferably methylene.

Suitable "cyclo(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>9</sub>)alkane" may include cyclopropane, cyclopentane, cyclohexane, cycloheptane, cyclooctane, or the like, preferably one having 5 to 7 carbon atoms.

Suitable "cyclo(C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>9</sub>)alkene" may include cyclopentene, cyclohexene, cycloheptene, cyclooctene, or the like, preferably one having 5 to 7 carbon atoms.

Suitable "bicyclo(C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>9</sub>)alkane" may include bicycloheptane (e.g., bicyclo[2.2.1]heptane, etc.), bicyclooctene (e.g., bicyclo[3.2.1]octane, etc.), or the like.

Suitable "bicyclo(C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>9</sub>)alkene" may include bicycloheptene (e.g., bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-2-ene, etc.), bicyclooctene (e.g., bicyclo[3.2.1]oct-2-ene, etc.), or the like.

Suitable "aryl" may include phenyl, lower alkylphenyl (e.g., tolyl, ethylphenyl, propylphenyl, etc.), naphthyl or the like.

Suitable "heterocyclic group" may include one containing at least one hetero atom selected from nitrogen, sulfur and

oxygen atom, and may include saturated or unsaturated, monocyclic or polycyclic group, and preferably one may be heterocyclic group such as 3 to 6-membered heteromonocyclic group containing 1 to 4 nitrogen atoms, for example, pyrrolyl, 5 pyrolynyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, triazolyl (e.g., 4H-1,2,4-triazolyl, 1H-1,2,3-triazolyl, 2H-1,2,3-triazolyl, etc.), tetrazolyl (e.g., 1H-tetrazolyl, 2H-tetrazolyl, etc.), or the like, more preferably tetrazolyl.

10 Suitable "lower alkoxy" may include methoxy, ethoxy propoxy, isopropoxy, butoxy, isobutoxy, t-butoxy, pentyloxy, t-pentyloxy, hexyloxy, or the like, preferably methoxy.

Suitable "protected carboxy" may include esterified carboxy or the like.

15 Suitable example of the ester moiety of an esterified carboxy may be the ones such as lower alkyl (e.g., methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, tert-butyl, pentyl, hexyl, etc.) which may have at least one suitable substituent(s), for example, lower alkanoyloxy(lower)alkyl [e.g., acetoxymethyl, 20 butyryloxymethyl, valeryloxymethyl, pivaloyloxymethyl, etc.], halo(lower)alkyl (e.g., 2-iodoethyl, 2,2,2-trichloroethyl, etc.); lower alkenyl (e.g., vinyl, allyl, etc.); lower alkynyl (e.g., ethynyl, propynyl, etc.); ar(lower)alkyl which may have at least one suitable substituent(s) (e.g., benzyl, 4- 25 methoxybenzyl, 4-nitrobenzyl, phenethyl, trityl, etc.); aryl which may have at least one suitable substituent(s) (e.g., phenyl, tolyl, 4-chlorophenyl, tert-butylphenyl, xylyl, mesityl, cumenyl, etc.); phthalidyl; or the like.

Suitable "halo" group in the term of "halo(lower)alkyl-

sulfonyl" may include fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, or the like.

Suitable "halo(lower)alkylsulfonyloxy" may include trifluoromethanesulfonyloxy, or the like.

5 Preferred embodiments of the azole compounds (I) are as follows:

$R^1$  is lower alkyl substituted with carboxy; carboxy; protected carboxy; carbamoyl; a heterocyclic group; lower alkoxy substituted with carbamoyl; aryl substituted with  
 10 carboxy, carbamoyl or a heterocyclic group; or amino optionally substituted with lower alkylsulfonyl (more preferably lower alkyl substituted with carboxy; carboxy; carbamoyl; tetrazolyl; lower alkoxy substituted with carbamoyl, aryl substituted with carboxy or carbamoyl),

15  $R^2$  is hydrogen or lower alkyl,

Q is  $\text{---}A^1\text{---}\bigcirc\text{---}A^3\text{---}$  in which  $-A^1-$  is a single bond or

lower alkylene (more preferably methylene),



is cyclo( $C_5-C_9$ )alkene, cyclo( $C_3-C_9$ )alkane or bicyclo( $C_5-C_9$ )alkene, bicyclo( $C_5-C_9$ )alkane (more preferably cyclo( $C_5-C_7$ )alkene, cyclo( $C_5-C_7$ )alkane, bicyclo[2.2.1]heptane or bicyclo[2.2.1]heptane), and  $-A^3-$  is a single bond or lower alkylene (more preferably single bond) and

X is 0.

25 A compound of the formula (I) is 3-([2-(4,5-diphenyloxazol-2-yl)-2-cyclohexen-1-yl]methyl)benzoate, or a salt thereof,

particularly the sodium salt.

Suitable salts of the compound of formula (I) are pharmaceutically acceptable conventional non-toxic salts and include a metal salt such as an alkali metal salt (e.g. a sodium or potassium salt) and an alkaline earth metal salt (e.g. a calcium or magnesium salt), an ammonium salt, an organic base salt (e.g., a trimethylamine salt, triethylamine salt, pyridine salt, picoline salt or a dicyclohexylamine salt), an organic acid salt (e.g., an acetate, maleate, tartrate, methanesulfonate, benzenesulfonate, formate, toluenesulfonate or trifluoroacetate salt), an inorganic acid salt (e.g., a hydrochloride, hydrobromide sulfate or phosphate), or a salt with an amino acid (e.g., arginine, aspartic acid or glutamic acid).

Compounds of the formula (I), and processes for their production are described in WO98/55468. This citation discloses that these compounds, including salts and solvates thereof, are EP<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonists. Although a large number of therapeutic uses of these compounds are described, these do not include the treatment of primary headache disorders, including migraine.

*Selective EP<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonist.*

In a preferred embodiment, the EP<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonist is a selective EP<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonist. By this it is meant that the antagonist has a binding affinity for the EP<sub>4</sub> receptor which is at least 10-fold higher than for at least one of the receptors EP<sub>1</sub>, EP<sub>2</sub> and EP<sub>3</sub>. Preferably the binding is selective with respect to EP<sub>3</sub>, since we have also found that PGE<sub>2</sub> causes contraction of cerebral arteries via interaction with EP<sub>3</sub> receptors. More preferably, the EP<sub>4</sub> receptor binding

is selective with respect to all of EP<sub>1</sub>, EP<sub>2</sub> and EP<sub>3</sub>.

The binding of an antagonist to the EP<sub>4</sub> receptor may be determined by competition against PGE<sub>2</sub>. For example, the EP<sub>4</sub> receptor may be provided as a recombinantly produced receptor expressed in human cell lines. The murine and human EP<sub>4</sub> receptors have been cloned (Honda et al J. Biol. Chem., 1993, 268; 7759-7762; and An et al, Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun., 1993, 197; 263-270), although these were initially characterised in error as EP<sub>2</sub> receptors (see review by Coleman, R. A., Prostanoid Receptors, Classification, Characterisation and Therapeutic Relevance, in Eicosanoids: From Biotechnology to Therapeutic Applications, eds. Folco, Samuelsson, Macclouf & Velo., 1996, Plenum Press, New York, pages 137-154), the text of which is also imported herein by reference and forms an integral part of this disclosure.

A method of identifying and quantifying EP<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonists is described in the two publications by Coleman, R.A., 1994 and 1995, listed above. The entire text of these publications is hereby imported by reference and forms an integral part of this disclosure and the inventive concepts described.

In one method, EP<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonists may be characterised by providing a natural source of the receptors, such as piglet saphenous vein. Sections of vein from freshly killed animals may be cut into rings of 4-5 mm width and suspended in an organ bath in Krebs solution. Changes in vessel tension in response to test compounds may be determined by isometric transducers connected to a suitable recording device. The tissue may be contracted, e.g. with phenylephrine, and the relaxant effect of increasing concentrations of PGE<sub>2</sub>

determined. The relaxant effect may be determined in the presence or absence of potential antagonists, with a shift in the concentration of  $\text{PGE}_2$  required to provide an specified degree of relaxation being indicative of an antagonistic effect.

In another method,  $\text{EP}_4$  receptor antagonists may be characterised using sections of cerebral artery. This is because we have found that this is the predominant  $\text{PGE}_2$  relaxant receptor in this blood vessel. Sections of cerebral artery are removed from different regions of preparations of human cerebral vasculature containing an intact circle of Willis. Intact rings of this cerebral artery, 2-3mm in length, are set up under isometric conditions in 10 ml organ baths under an initial tension of 1g. All tissues are maintained at 37°C and gassed constantly with 95%  $\text{O}_2$  / 5%  $\text{CO}_2$ . Following a 90 min equilibration period all tissues are challenged with phenylephrine (1  $\mu\text{M}$ ), to determine tissue viability. Once a stable contraction is obtained, tissues are exposed to a range of prostanoid receptor agonists, in the absence or presence of receptor antagonists, to determine the functional role of prostanoid receptors in maintaining arterial tone.

#### *Combined therapies.*

In a further aspect of the present invention  $\text{EP}_4$  receptor antagonists may, if desired, be used in combination with one or more other therapeutic agents. The other therapeutic agent(s) may be an agent active against a primary headache disorder, or an agent whose side-effects may induce a primary headache disorder, such as a chemotherapeutic agent. Agents for the treatment of a primary headache disorder include an ergot derivative, for example dihydroergotamine, a 5-HT<sub>2</sub> receptor antagonist, for example ketanserin, or a 5-HT<sub>1D</sub>

receptor agonist, for example sumatriptan, naratriptan or zolmitriptan, a  $\beta$ -blocker for example propranolol, or a non-steroidal anit-inflammatory drug, such as asprin, paracetamol (acetaminophen) or ibuprofen.

5 Thus the present invention provides a composition comprising an EP<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonist and a second pharmaceutically active ingredient, including any of the ingredients mentioned above. Particular EP<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonists include those of formula (I) as defined above, including its preferred embodiments.

10

A further embodiment of the invention is the combination of an EP<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonist with other therapeutic agents used in the treatment of a primary headache disorder such as migraine for example, with an ergot derivative (e.g. dihydro-  
15 ergotamine), a 5-HT<sub>2</sub> receptor antagonist (e.g. ketanserin), or a 5-HT<sub>1D</sub> receptor agonist (e.g. sumatriptan, naratriptan or zolmitriptan), a  $\beta$ -blocker (e.g. propranolol) or an NSAID including those mentioned above. Particular EP<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonists include those of formula (I) as defined above,  
20 including its preferred embodiments.

#### *Assay methods.*

In relation to assays of the invention, in a preferred embodiment, the invention provides an assay method for an agent for the treatment of a primary headache disorder or  
25 drug-induced headache, which assay comprises:

- (a) providing an EP<sub>4</sub> receptor;
- (b) bringing a potential agent for said treatment into contact with said receptor;
- (c) determining whether said agent is capable of interacting  
30 with said EP<sub>4</sub> receptor; and
- (d) selecting an agent which so interacts as an agent for the

treatment of primary headache disorder or drug-induced headache.

The mode of interaction of the agent with the EP<sub>4</sub> receptor will be determined according to the format of the assay, which may be varied within the routine skill and knowledge of those of skill in the art. For example, in one aspect the assay may simply determine the binding of the agent to the EP<sub>4</sub> receptor. There are numerous ways in which such an assay could be performed. For example, the receptor may be provided on a solid support, and the binding of the agent determined in a competitive assay in which the agent, or a competitor (e.g. PGE<sub>2</sub> or a known EP<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonist) is labelled, so that the displacement of the competitor by the agent may be determined as an indication of binding. Other binding formats, for example in which the receptor is labelled, may be provided within the ordinary skill and knowledge of those in the art.

Alternatively, the assay may be one in which the response of EP<sub>4</sub> receptors in a biological system is determined. The receptors may be provided on tissue which naturally expresses these receptors. For example, the receptor may be provided on isolated vasculature, such as cerebral arteries. The vasculature may be isolated from any suitable source, e.g. post-mortem human sources, or animal sources, such as pigs, rats, rabbits and the like. Alternatively, the receptor may be provided by recombinant expression from an EP<sub>4</sub> receptor cDNA in a suitable host cell expression system. The biological response to the agent may be determined, e.g. to see if the agent antagonises the response to PGE<sub>2</sub> or the like.

In a preferred aspect, the EP<sub>4</sub> receptor is provided in step (a)

together with at least one other receptor selected from the group of EP<sub>1</sub>, EP<sub>2</sub>, EP<sub>3</sub>, TP, IP and DP receptors. Alternatively, the assay is run in parallel or sequential to (either before or after) with an assay to determine the interaction of the agent to one of these other prostanoid receptors. In this aspect, the determining step may include a comparison of the activity or affinity of the agent against the other EP or other prostanoid receptor types so as to determine whether or not the antagonist is a selective EP<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonist. Such selective antagonists are preferred.

In a particularly preferred embodiment, the affinity of the putative EP<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonist to the EP<sub>3</sub> receptor is determined in the presence of a preparation of EP<sub>3</sub> receptors. For example, the affinity of binding of an EP<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonist to the EP<sub>3</sub> receptor may be determined using a selective radioligand to the EP<sub>3</sub> receptor. Preferably, the test selected as an EP<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonist will show lower affinity to the EP<sub>3</sub> receptor than to the EP<sub>4</sub> receptor.

Agents selected by the assays of the invention may then be subject to one or more of the following steps:

(e') testing the agent so selected for safety and/or toxicity in a human or animal subject;

(e'') testing the agent so selected in a human patient for efficacy in treating a primary headache disorder;

(e''') formulating the agent with one or more carriers, diluents or second agents for the treatment of primary headache disorders.

Where other receptors are used in assays according to the invention, these may also be supplied in recombinant form. The cloning of these receptors are described in the following citations, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by  
5 reference.

DP: Boie, Y., Sawyer, N., Slipetz, D.M., Metters, K.M. and Abramovitz, M (1995) Molecular Cloning and characterization of the human prostanoid DP receptor. J. Biol. Chem. 270, 18910-18916.

10 EP1: Funk, C.D., Furci, L., FitzGerald, G.A., Grygorczyk, R., Rochette, C., Bayne, M., Abramovitz, M., Adam, M. and Metters, K.M. (1993) Cloning and expression of a cDNA for the human prostaglandin E receptor EP1 subtype. J. Biol. Chem. 268, 26767-26772

15 EP2: Regan, J.W., Bailey, T.J., Pepperl, D.J., Pierce, K.L., Bogardus, A.M., Donello, J.E., Fairbairn, C.E., Kedzie, K.M., Woodward, D.F. and Gil, D.W. (1994) Cloning of a novel human prostaglandin receptor with characteristics of the pharmacologically defined EP2 subtype. Mol.  
20 Pharmacol. 40, 213-220.

EP3: Regan, J.W., Bailey, T.J., Donello, J.E., Pierce, K.L., Pepperl, D.J., Zhang, D., Kedzie, K.M., Fairbarin, C.E., Bogardus, A.M., Woodward, D.F. and Gil, D.W. (1994) Molecular cloning and expression of human EP3 receptors:  
25 presence of three variants with differing carboxyl termini. Br. J. Pharmacol. 112, 377-385.

TP: Hirata, M., Hayishi, Y., Ushikubi, F., Yokota, Y., Kageyama, R., Nakanishi, S. and Narumiya, S. (1991)

Cloning and expression of the human thromboxane A2 receptor. Nature 349, 617-620.

IP: Boie, Y., Rushmore, T.H., Darmon-Goodwin, A., Grygorczyk,  
R., Slipetz, D.M., Metters, K.M. and Abramovitz, M.  
5 (1994) Cloning and expression of a cDNA for the human  
prostanoid IP receptor. J. Biol. Chem. 269, 12173-12178.

In preferred aspects of this part of the invention, the EP<sub>4</sub>  
receptor is provided together with, or in parallel with, at  
least one other EP receptor, preferably at least the EP<sub>3</sub>,  
10 receptor. The other receptor(s) may be provided in the  
various forms (e.g. isolated on a solid support, in tissue on  
which it occurs naturally or recombinantly) mentioned above.  
Conveniently, the assay is performed on vasculature which  
contains the EP<sub>4</sub> receptor together with any other desired  
15 receptor.

Compounds of the formula (I) as defined above, may be used in  
assays of the invention in order to select an agent which is a  
selective EP<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonist. Other agents which may be  
used in performing assays of the invention include other  
20 compounds such as PGE<sub>2</sub> antagonists described in the patent  
applications cited above. Further, libraries of small  
molecules are commercially available and such libraries may be  
used in assays of the invention.

*Formulation and administration of EP<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonists.*  
25 The EP<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonists may be administered as the raw  
chemical but the active ingredients are preferably presented  
as a pharmaceutical formulation. Suitable pharmaceutical  
formulations are described in the above referenced patent  
specifications.

Thus, the EP<sub>4</sub> antagonists may be formulated for oral, buccal, parenteral, topical, depot or rectal administration or in a form suitable for administration by inhalation or insufflation (either through the mouth or nose). Oral and parenteral formulations are preferred.

For oral administration, the pharmaceutical compositions may take the form of, for example, tablets or capsules prepared by conventional means with pharmaceutically acceptable excipients such as binding agents (e.g. pregelatinised maize starch, polyvinylpyrrolidone or hydroxypropyl methylcellulose); filters (e.g. lactose, microcrystalline cellulose or calcium hydrogen phosphate); lubricants (e.g. magnesium stearate, talc or silica); disintegrants (e.g. potato starch or sodium starch glycollate); or wetting agents (e.g. sodium lauryl sulphate). The tablets may be coated by methods well known in the art. Liquid preparations for oral administration may take the form of, for example, solutions, syrups or suspensions, or they may be presented as a dry product for constitution with water or other suitable vehicle before use. Such liquid preparations may be prepared by conventional means with pharmaceutically acceptable additives such as suspending agents (e.g. sorbitol syrup, cellulose derivatives or hydrogenated edible fats); emulsifying agents (e.g. lecithin or acacia); non-aqueous vehicles (e.g. almond oil, oily esters, ethyl alcohol or fractionated vegetable oils); and preservatives (e.g. methyl or propyl-p-hydroxybenzoates or sorbic acid). The preparations may also contain buffer salts, flavouring, colouring and sweetening agents as appropriate.

Preparations for oral administration may be suitably formulated to give controlled release of the active compound.

For buccal administration the composition may take the form of tablets or lozenges formulated in conventional manner.

The EP<sub>4</sub> antagonists may be formulated for parenteral administration by bolus injection or continuous infusion.

- 5 Formulations for injection may be presented in unit dosage form, e.g. in ampoules or in multi-dose containers, with an added preservative. The compositions may take such forms as suspensions, solutions or emulsions in oily or aqueous vehicles, and may contain formulatory agents such as
- 10 suspending, stabilising and/or dispersing agents. Alternatively, the active ingredient may be in powder form for constitution with a suitable vehicle, e.g. sterile pyrogen-free water, before use.

- The EP<sub>4</sub> antagonists may be formulated for topical
- 15 administration in the form of ointments, creams, gels, lotions, pessaries, aerosols or drops (e.g. eye, ear or nose drops). Ointments and creams may, for example, be formulated with an aqueous or oily base with the addition of suitable thickening and/or gelling agents.

- 20 Lotions may be formulated with an aqueous or oily base and will in general also contain one or more emulsifying agents, stabilising agents, dispersing agents, suspending agents, thickening agents, or colouring agents. Drops may be formulated with an aqueous or non-aqueous base also comprising
- 25 one or more dispersing agents, stabilising agents, solubilising agents or suspending agents. They may also contain a preservative.

The EP<sub>4</sub> antagonists may also be formulated in rectal compositions such as suppositories or retention enemas, e.g.

containing conventional suppository bases such as cocoa butter or other glycerides.

The EP<sub>4</sub> antagonists may also be formulated as depot preparations. Such long acting formulations may be administered by implantation (for example subcutaneously or intramuscularly) or by intramuscular injection. Thus, for example, the compounds of the invention may be formulated with suitable polymeric or hydrophobic materials (for example as an emulsion in an acceptable oil) or ion exchange resins, or as sparingly soluble derivatives, for example, as a sparingly soluble salt.

For intranasal administration, the EP<sub>4</sub> antagonists may be formulated as solutions for administration via a suitable metered or unit dose device or alternatively as a powder mix with a suitable carrier for administration using a suitable delivery device.

Suitable dose ranges may be calculated by those skilled in the art in light of toxicological data. It will be appreciated that it may be necessary to make routine variations to the dosage, depending on the age and condition of the patient, and the precise dosage will be ultimately at the discretion of the attendant physician or veterinarian. The dosage will also depend on the route of administration and the particular compound selected. A suitable dose range is, for example, 0.01 to 100 mg/kg, such as from 0.01 to about 50mg/kg bodyweight, 1 to 4 times per day.

The invention is illustrated by the following examples, which shows that small cerebral arteries have EP<sub>4</sub> receptors.

*PGE<sub>2</sub> causes dilatation of middle and anterior cerebral arteries in vitro, via interaction with EP<sub>4</sub> receptors.*

#### *Materials and Methods.*

Sections of cerebral artery were removed from different regions of preparations of human cerebral vasculature containing an intact circle of Willis. Intact rings of this cerebral artery, 2-3mm in length, were set up under isometric conditions in 10 ml organ baths under an initial tension of 1g. All tissues were maintained at 37°C and gassed constantly with 95% O<sub>2</sub> / 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. Following a 90 min equilibration period all tissues were challenged with phenylephrine (1 µM), to determine tissue viability. Once a stable contraction had been obtained, tissues were exposed to a range of prostanoid receptor agonists, in the absence or presence of receptor antagonists, to determine the functional role of prostanoid receptors in maintaining arterial tone.

#### *Results*

The effects of prostanoid activation were determined in varying sizes of human cerebral artery. On larger vessels (internal diameter > 1mm), PGE<sub>2</sub> generally caused a concentration-related contraction, whereas on smaller vessels (internal diameter < 1mm), it consistently caused potent concentration-related relaxation of pre-contracted cerebral blood vessels. This is shown in Figure 1, which is a trace showing the relaxant effects of PGE<sub>2</sub> on a cerebral blood vessel in an isolated tissue chamber. The isolated vessel has been pre-contracted with phenylephrine and exposed to increasing concentrations of PGE<sub>2</sub>. Maximum relaxation occurs below 10<sup>-6</sup>M and can be maintained until it is washed out.

Additionally PGE<sub>2</sub> was shown to induce maximal or near maximal relaxation of cerebral artery rings pre-contracted with the TP

receptor agonist U46619 ( $11\alpha,9\alpha$ -epoxymethano-PGH<sub>2</sub>), (100nM) or 5-hydroxytryptamine (5-HT), (300nM and 1 $\mu$ M). This is shown in Figure 2, in which is shown the cumulative concentration-effect curves to the relaxant effects of PGE<sub>2</sub> on human cerebral artery rings pre-contracted with: (A) U46619 (100nM); (B) 5-HT (300nM) and (C) 5-HT (1  $\mu$ M). Each curve represents a different tissue.

On smaller diameter cerebral blood vessels, the closely related prostanoids, PGD<sub>2</sub> and PGF<sub>2 $\alpha$</sub> , were found to be without effect, as illustrated in Figure 3, which shows the cumulative concentration-effect curves to PGD<sub>2</sub> (open symbols) and PGF<sub>2 $\alpha$</sub>  (closed symbols) on human cerebral artery rings contracted with phenylephrine (1  $\mu$ M). GR32191 (4-heptenoic acid, 7-[5-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-ylmethoxy)-3-hydroxy-2-(1-piperidinyl)-cyclopentyl]-,hydrochloride,[1R[1.alpha.(Z), 2.beta., 3.beta., 5.alpha.]]), (1  $\mu$ M), was present in bathing solution to block prostanoid TP-receptors. Each curve represents a different tissue.

The presence of IP receptors on human cerebral artery rings was also investigated. Iloprost and cicaprost induced relaxation in tissues previously contracted with phenylephrine. It was therefore essential that any involvement of IP receptors in mediation of the effects of PGE<sub>2</sub> was excluded when assessing antagonist effects at EP receptors. The results of an experiment showing this is set out in Figure 4, which illustrates the cumulative concentration-effect curves to iloprost (closed squares) and cicaprost (closed triangles) on human cerebral artery rings contracted with phenylephrine (1  $\mu$ M). GR32191 (1  $\mu$ M) was present in bathing solution to block prostanoid TP-receptors. However, PGE<sub>2</sub> is at least 100-fold less potent at IP receptors

compared to iloprost and cicaprost, and therefore relaxation due to IP receptor activation is unlikely to be a major component of PGE<sub>2</sub> relaxant response.

The above results indicate that the high relaxant potency of PGE<sub>2</sub> in small diameter cerebral arteries is indicative of the involvement of an EP receptor. Such inhibitory effects are invariably associated with either the EP<sub>2</sub> or the EP<sub>4</sub> receptor isoforms (Coleman, Smith & Narumiya, 1994, *ibid*). The EP isoform mediating this effect was determined by receptor exclusion studies using antagonists and agonists selective for other members of the prostanoid receptor family. Butaprost and AH13205 (*trans*-2-(4-[1-hydroxyhexyl]phenyl)-5-oxocyclopentaneheptanoate) are recognised as selective EP<sub>2</sub> agonists and thus their effect on human cerebral artery rings contracted with phenylephrine (1  $\mu$ M) was determined. The results are shown in Figure 5, which shows the cumulative concentration-effect curves to PGE<sub>2</sub> (closed circles), AH13205 (open circles) and butaprost (closed triangles). GR32191 (1  $\mu$ M) was present in the bathing solution to block prostanoid TP-receptors.

It can be seen from Figure 5 that neither compound caused relaxation of human cerebral arteries pre-contracted with phenylephrine (Figure 5), excluding EP<sub>2</sub> receptor involvement in the relaxant response to PGE<sub>2</sub>. These data provide support that the PGE<sub>2</sub> effect seen in this tissue is mediated via an EP<sub>4</sub> receptor or alternatively, a novel EP receptor(s) yet to be identified. The EP<sub>4</sub> receptor is proposed to be located on the vascular smooth muscle since in a number of experiments removal of the endothelium did not affect the relaxant response to PGE<sub>2</sub>.

*Effect of the EP<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonist, AH23848.*

The role of the EP<sub>4</sub> receptor in PGE<sub>2</sub>-mediated relaxation of phenylephrine pre-contracted middle cerebral rings was demonstrated using the putative EP<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonist AH23848. As a control, cerebral rings were pre-contracted with 1 mM phenylephrine, and concentration-dependently relaxed with PGE<sub>2</sub> in the presence of 1mM GR32191. Representative mean  $\pm$  s.e.m data of 4 middle cerebral artery rings from one donor are shown in Figure 6, closed circles. To test the effect of the EP<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonist AH23848, cerebral rings were preincubated for 45 mins with 10 mM AH23848. AH23848 caused a significant rightward shift ( $P=0.004$ , 2 tailed T-Test) in the PGE<sub>2</sub>-mediated relaxation (Log EC<sub>50</sub> (M) PGE<sub>2</sub>  $7.87 \pm 0.07$ ; PGE<sub>2</sub>+ 10 mM AH23848  $-7.19 \pm 0.09$ ) - Figure 6, open circles.

*Effect of PGE<sub>2</sub> on coronary and pulmonary arteries.*

It has also been found that PGE<sub>2</sub> failed to cause relaxation of coronary artery and pulmonary artery which had been precontracted with submaximal concentrations of U46619 or phenylephrine. Rings (2-4mm internal diameter) were prepared from sections of pulmonary or coronary artery ( $n=3$  each). They were mounted in organ baths under isometric conditions, in gassed Krebs solution (containing indomethacin) at 37°C, and 1-1.5g initial tone.

After at least 60min equilibration, tone was induced with U-46619 (10-100nM) in pulmonary artery or either phenylephrine (1-10 $\mu$ M) or endothelin-1 (-7M) in coronary artery. After a stable plateau had been obtained, tissues received a cumulative concentration effect curve to PGE<sub>2</sub>, at log dose intervals, with at least 3 minutes at each concentration. After a maximum response had been obtained, all tissues were treated with cicaprost (0.1-1 $\mu$ M), to induce relaxation.

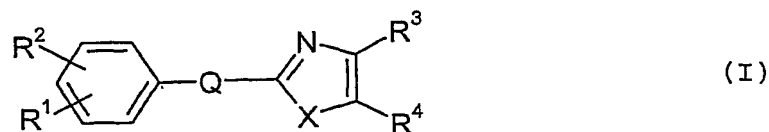
Application of U-46619 (pulmonary artery, see Figure 7A) or phenylephrine or endothelin-1 (coronary artery, see Figure 7B) induced significant increases in basal tone in all preparations. After a stable response had been obtained, application of PGE<sub>2</sub> did not cause relaxation in any preparation, in either coronary or pulmonary artery. The data of Figure 7 are shown as mean  $\pm$ s.e. mean for n=3 donors.

Thus application of PGE<sub>2</sub> failed to induce relaxation of either pulmonary or coronary artery preparations. A small contraction was induced by PGE<sub>2</sub> in coronary artery, which is likely to be due to the activation of EP<sub>3</sub> receptors. Application of cicaprost induced a relaxation in all preparations, indicating that the tissues were viable and able to exhibit relaxatory responses. No evidence of inhibitory EP receptors could be found.

Thus assays of the invention which are configured to select an EP<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonist which is selective with respect to EP<sub>3</sub> receptors are of particular interest.

## CLAIMS

1. The use of an EP<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonist in the preparation of a medicament for use in the treatment of a primary headache disorder or drug-induced headache.
2. Use, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a primary headache disorder, of a compound of formula (I):

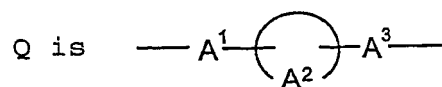


wherein R<sup>1</sup> is lower alkyl substituted with hydroxy, protected carboxy or carboxy; carboxy; protected carboxy; carbamoyl; a heterocyclic group; cyano; hydroxy; halo(lower)alkyl-sulfonyloxy; lower alkoxy optionally substituted with hydroxy or carbamoyl; aryl substituted with carboxy, protected carboxy, carbamoyl or a heterocyclic group; or amino optionally substituted with protected carboxy or lower alkylsulfonyl,

R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen or lower alkyl,

R<sup>3</sup> is aryl optionally substituted with halogen,

R<sup>4</sup> is aryl optionally substituted with halogen,



in which -A<sup>1</sup>- is a single bond or lower alkylene,

is cyclo (C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>9</sub>) alkane, bicyclo (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>9</sub>) alkane or bicycle (C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>9</sub>) alkane and -A<sup>3</sup>- is a single bond or lower alkylene, and

X is O, NH or S;  
or a salt or its solvate thereof.

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

3. The use according to claim 1 or 2 wherein said primary headache disorder is migraine.

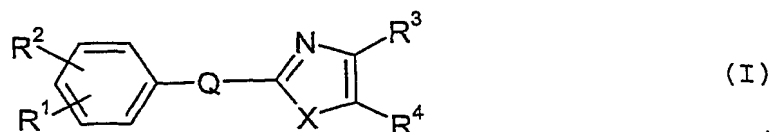
4. A composition comprising an EP<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonist and a second therapeutic agent used in the treatment of a primary headache disorder.

5. A composition according to claim 4 wherein said EP<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonist is a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof as defined in claim 2.

6. A composition according to claim 4 or 5 wherein said second agent is selected from the group consisting of an ergot derivative, a 5-HT<sub>2</sub> receptor antagonist, a 5-HT<sub>1D</sub> receptor agonist and a NSAID.

7. A method of treating a primary headache disorder or drug-induced headache in a human or animal subject which comprises administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of an EP<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonist or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

8. A method of treating a primary headache disorder or drug-induced headache in a human or animal subject which comprises administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of an EP<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonist of formula (I):

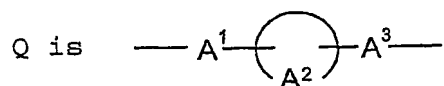


wherein  $R^1$  is lower alkyl substituted with hydroxy, protected carboxy or carboxy; carboxy; protected carboxy; carbamoyl; a heterocyclic group; cyano; hydroxy; halo(lower)alkyl-sulfonyloxy; lower alkoxy optionally substituted with hydroxy or carbamoyl; aryl substituted with carboxy, protected carboxy, carbamoyl or a heterocyclic group; or amino optionally substituted with protected carboxy or lower alkylsulfonyl,

$R^2$  is hydrogen or lower alkyl,

$R^3$  is aryl optionally substituted with halogen,

$R^4$  is aryl optionally substituted with halogen,



in which  $-A^1-$  is a single bond or lower alkylene,

$\bigcirc_{A^2}$  is cyclo ( $C_5-C_9$ ) alkane, bicyclo ( $C_6-C_9$ ) alkane or bicyclo ( $C_5-C_9$ ) alkane and  $-A^3-$  is a single bond or lower alkylene], and

X is O, NH or S;

or a salt or its solvate thereof.

9. The method of claim 7 or 8 wherein said  $EP_4$  receptor antagonist is administered in combination with a second therapeutic agent used in the treatment of a primary headache disorder.

10. An assay for an agent for the treatment of a primary headache disorder or drug-induced headache, which assay comprises:

- (a) providing an EP<sub>4</sub> receptor;
- (b) bringing a potential agent for said treatment into contact with said receptor;
- (c) determining whether said agent is capable of interacting with said EP<sub>4</sub> receptor; and
- (d) selecting an agent which so interacts as an agent for the treatment of primary headache disorder or drug-induced headache.

11. An assay for an agent for the treatment of a primary headache disorder, which assay comprises:

- (a) providing an EP<sub>4</sub> receptor together with at least one other receptor selected from the group of EP<sub>1</sub>, EP<sub>2</sub> and EP<sub>3</sub> receptors;
- (b) bringing a potential agent for said treatment into contact with said receptors;
- (c) determining whether said agent is capable of selectively binding to said EP<sub>4</sub> receptor; and
- (d) selecting an agent which so binds as an agent for the treatment of primary headache disorders.

12. An assay according to claim 11 wherein said other receptor is an EP<sub>3</sub> receptor.

13. The assay of claim 10, 11 or 12, which further comprises one or more of the following steps:

- (e') testing the agent so selected for safety and/or toxicity in a human or animal subject;
- (e'') testing the agent so selected in a human patient for efficacy in treating a primary headache disorder; and

(e'') formulating the agent with one or more carriers, diluents or second agents for the treatment of primary headache disorders.

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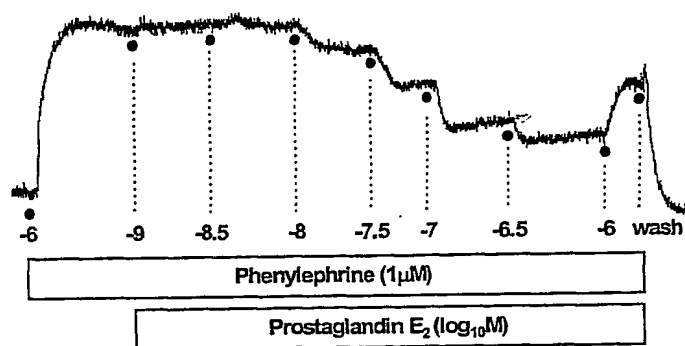
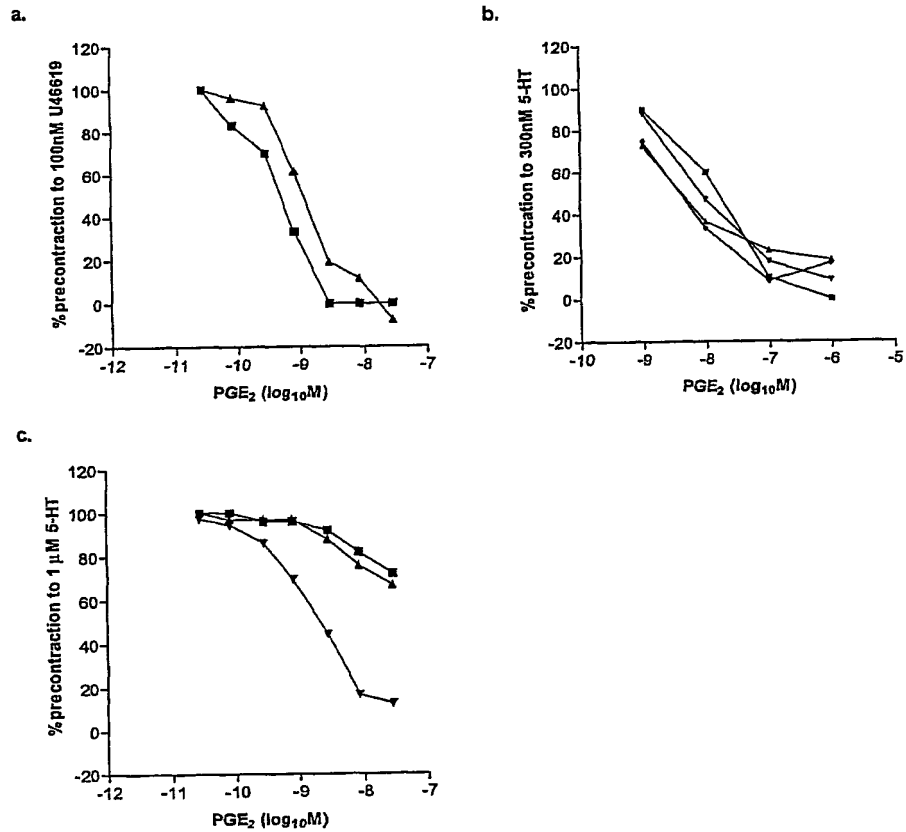


FIGURE 1



FIGURES 2A - 2C

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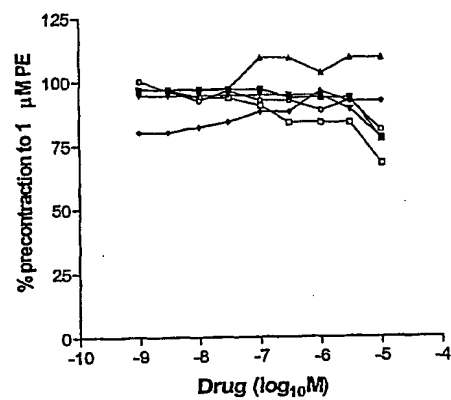


FIGURE 3

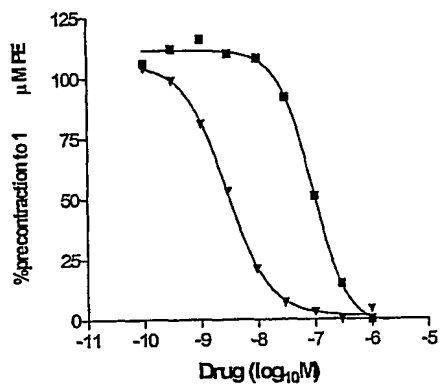


FIGURE 4

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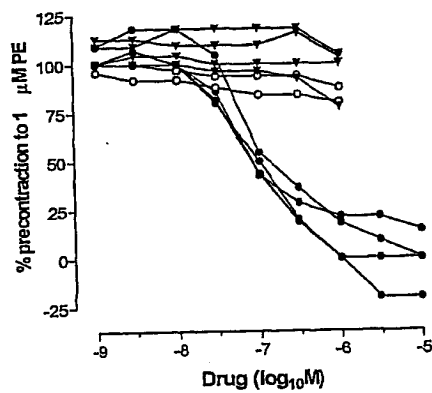


FIGURE 5

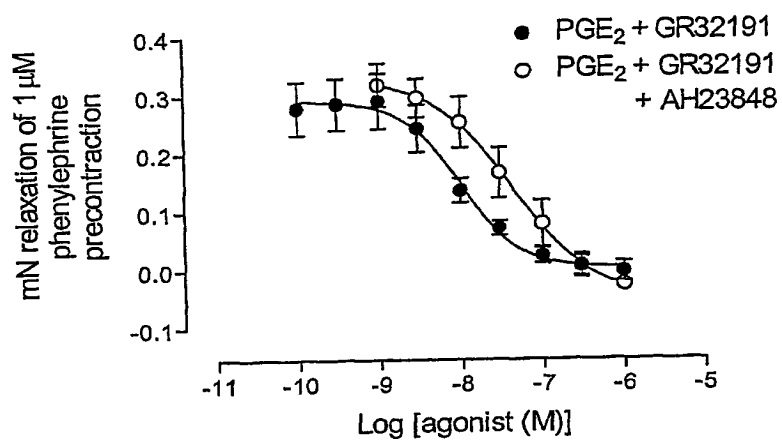


FIGURE 6

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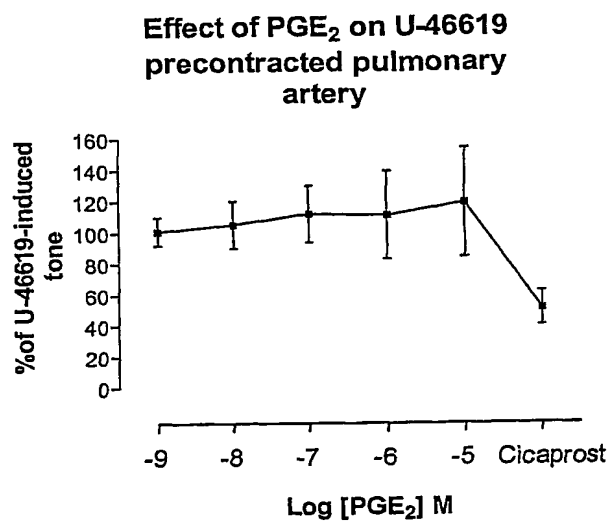


FIGURE 7A

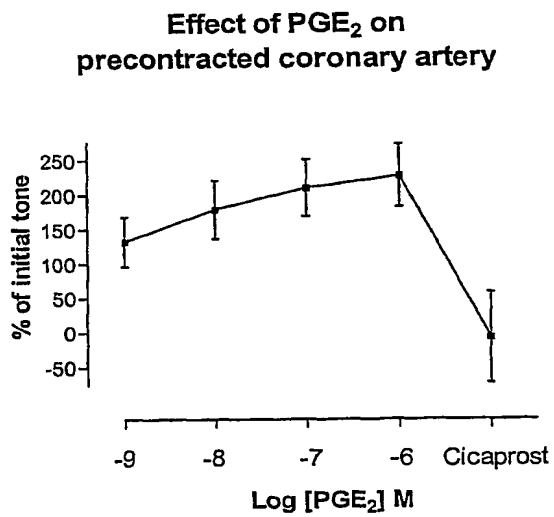


FIGURE 7B

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Intern Application No  
PCT/GB 00/01138

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
IPC 7 A61K31/421 A61K31/5375 A61P25/06 A61K31/42 G01N33/68

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A61K G01N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

BIOSIS, EPO-Internal

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
E	WO 00 18405 A (PHARMAGENE LABORATORIES LTD.) 6 April 2000 (2000-04-06) the whole document	1,2,4,6, 7,9
X	WO 98 55468 A (FUJISAWA PHARMACEUTICAL CO. LTD.) 10 December 1998 (1998-12-10) cited in the application the whole document	5
A	PARSONS, A.A. ET AL: " Effects of prostanoids on human and rabbit basilar arteries precontracted in vitro." CEPHALAGIA, vol. 9, no. 3, 1989, pages 165-171, XP002086056 the whole document	1-9
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

### \* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"G" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

22 March 2001

Date of mailing of the international search report

26.03.01

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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Authorized officer

Hoekstra, S

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Interr plication No  
PCT/GB 00/01138

## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	COLEMAN, R.A. ET AL: "A novel inhibitory prostanoid receptor in piglet saphenous vein" PROSTAGLANDINS, vol. 47, 1994, pages 151-168, XP000971160 cited in the application the whole document	1-9
A	COLEMAN, R.A. ET AL: "EP4-receptors and cyclic AMP in pig venous smooth muscle: Evidence with agonists and the EP4-antagonist AH22921" ADVANCES IN PROSTAGLANDIN, THROMBOXANE AND LEUKOTRIENE RESEARCH, vol. 23, 1995, pages 241-246, XP000884753 cited in the application the whole document	1-9
A	VAPAATALO, HEIKKI: "Tolfenamic acid and migraine-aspects on prostaglandins and leukotrienes" PHARMACOLOGY AND TOXICOLOGY, vol. 75, no. suppl.2, 1994, pages 76-80, XP000974399 the whole document	1-9
A	KOHL, F.V.: "Kopfschmerz durch Arzneimittel" MEDIZINISCHE MONATSSCHRIFT FÜR PHARMAZEUTEN, vol. 8, no. 1, 1985, page 2-7 XP000974353 page 6, middle column, line 18-25	1-9
E	WO 01 10426 A (GIBLIN GERARD MARTIN PAUL ;GLAXO GROUP LTD (GB); CLAYTON NICHOLAS) 15 February 2001 (2001-02-15) page 8, line 25 -page 10, line 6 page 10, line 11 - line 12	10,13

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int'l application No.  
PCT/GB 00/01138

## Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:  
Although claims 7-9 are directed to a method of treatment of the human/animal body, the search has been carried out and based on the alleged effects of the compounds.
2. ☒ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:  
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

## Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this International application, as follows:

see additional sheet

As a result of the prior review under R. 40.2(e) PCT,  
all additional fees are to be refunded.

1. ☒ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☒ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

## Continuation of Box I.2

Present claims 1,3,4,6,7 and 9 relate to a compound defined by reference to a desirable characteristic or property, namely "an EP4 receptor antagonist". The claims cover all compounds having this characteristic or property, whereas the application provides support within the meaning of Article 6 PCT and disclosure within the meaning of Article 5 PCT for only a very limited number of such compounds. In the present case, the claims so lack support, and the application so lacks disclosure, that a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope is impossible. Independent of the above reasoning, the claims also lack clarity (Article 6 PCT). An attempt is made to define the compound by reference to a result to be achieved. Again, this lack of clarity in the present case is such as to render a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope impossible.

Additionally, present claims 2,3,5,6,8 and 9 relate to a rather elevated number of possible compounds. Support within the meaning of Article 6 PCT and disclosure within the meaning of Article 5 PCT is to be found, however, for only a very small proportion of the compounds claimed. In the present case, the claims so lack support, and the application so lacks disclosure, that a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope is impossible.

Consequently, the search has been carried out for those parts of the claims which appear to be supported and disclosed, namely those parts relating to the compounds specifically mentioned at page 3 of the description, and the compounds falling under formula (I) of claim 2, which are specifically disclosed in WO 98 55468 (see page 13, line 16 of the description) with due regard to the general idea underlying the application.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No. PCT/GB 00/01138

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-9

Pharmaceutical compositions containing EP4 receptor antagonists and their use related to the treatment of a primary headache disorder or drug-induced headache.

2. Claims: 10-13

An assay for identifying a potential agent for the treatment of primary headache disorder or drug-induced headache comprising identifying a (selective) EP4 receptor antagonist.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB 00/01138

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 0018405	A	06-04-2000	AU 9177698 A GB 2341799 A,B	17-04-2000 29-03-2000
WO 9855468	A	10-12-1998	EP 0989975 A	05-04-2000
WO 0110426	A	15-02-2001	NONE	

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